

**Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1**

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Adopted in Assembly March 1, 2007

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*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

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Adopted in Senate May 17, 2007

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*Secretary of the Senate*

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This resolution was received by the Secretary of State this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007, at \_\_\_\_\_  
o'clock \_\_\_\_M.

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*Deputy Secretary of State*

## RESOLUTION CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1—Relative to Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 1, Dymally. Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

This measure would respectfully memorialize the Congress and President of the United States to enact legislation to allow the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science to become a fully and legally designated Historically Black College and University and a Historically Black Graduate Institution, as those terms are defined in the federal Higher Education Act of 1965.

WHEREAS, In the early 1960s, many community leaders of the Watts-Willowbrook area within the County of Los Angeles were deeply concerned about the significant lack of transportation and medical services in an area serving over one million residents, and conducted meetings from 1963 to 1964 to determine the economic and social costs of not having adequate medical services and regional transportation within the area; and

WHEREAS, Community leaders repeatedly made presentations to government officials to stress the importance of addressing those needs in an urgent manner; and

WHEREAS, Due to the racial situation at the time, few efforts were made by the local, state, and federal government officials to address those immediate and critical concerns; and

WHEREAS, This governmental inaction contributed to the Watts Riots that occurred in the summer of 1965, killing 34 persons, injuring over 1,000, and causing extensive property damage; and

WHEREAS, In August 1965, Governor Edmund G. Brown established a commission, known as the McCone Commission, to investigate the reasons for the Watts Riots and to make specific recommendations; and

WHEREAS, The findings of the McCone Commission dramatically indicated the breakdown of government entities

responsible for addressing the problems of the community and confirmed the needs of the community as previously identified by its leaders; and

WHEREAS, As a direct result of the McCone Commission recommendations, a postgraduate medical school was incorporated in 1966, and it immediately began to fulfill its mission of serving the community by training doctors and other health professionals committed to quality education and relevant research in the context of meaningful community service by providing health care with excellence and compassion to the underserved; and

WHEREAS, Over the years, this postgraduate medical school became the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (Drew University), and the school continues to actively fulfill its mission; and

WHEREAS, Because of the socioeconomic and political climate at the time of incorporation, Drew University was unable to meet certain dates as specified in the federal Higher Education Act of 1965 (P.L. 89-329, and amendments thereto) in order to acquire the status of a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and later only became eligible for classification as a Historically Black Graduate Institution (HBGI); and

WHEREAS, Nevertheless, over the years, Drew University has demonstrated its full commitment to minority communities by implementing and expanding its high-quality medical programs without the benefit and advantages of those designations; and

WHEREAS, The time has come to remedy the adverse impact of these technical and arbitrary exclusions that limited Drew University's institutional potential by precluding it from becoming a full partner with its sister HBCU and HBGI institutions from around the nation; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature respectfully memorializes the Congress and President of the United States to enact legislation to allow the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science to become a fully and legally designated HBCU and HBGI institution as those terms are defined in the federal Higher Education Act of 1965; and be it further

*Resolved,* That Drew University, as the only medical university west of the Mississippi River that is fully committed to HBCU and HBGI principles, should remain true to its mission, maintain

all appropriate academic and medical accreditations, and serve as a model for its sister institutions that are committed to providing high-quality medical care to medically underserved communities; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.







Attest:

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*Secretary of State*